

20th Street Businesses Look For Better Times

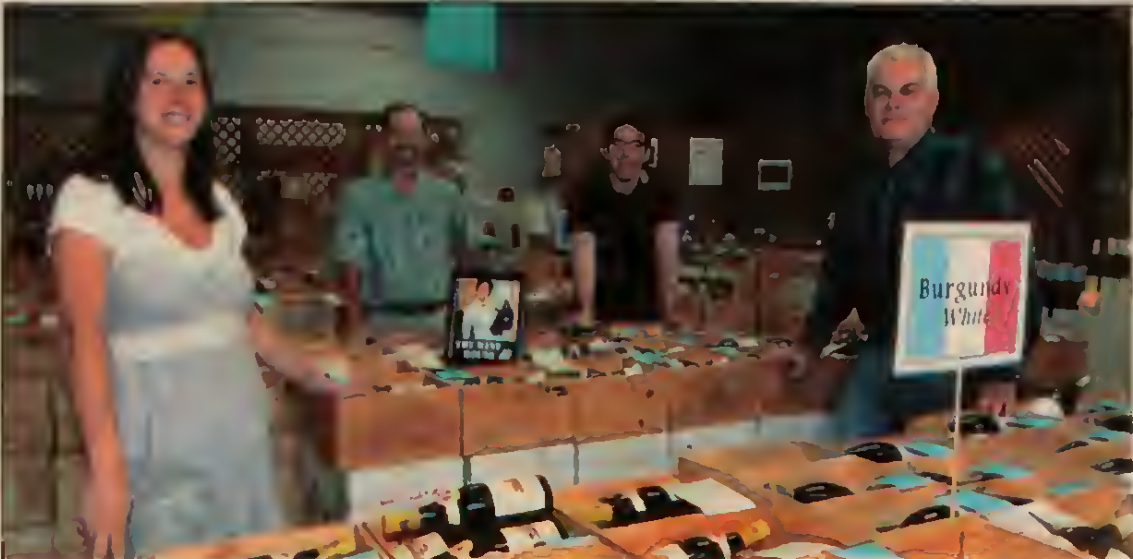
By Lisa Tehrani

The 20th Street corridor, stretching between Missouri and Arkansas streets, serves as a virtual meridian between the Hill's north and south slopes. Compared to 18th Street, with its concentration of restaurants and bars, it's the neighborhood's quieter commercial strip. Both of the Hill's business districts are small compared to other neighborhoods, particularly Noe Valley's 24th Street. Twentieth Street has more residences than it does storefronts, though it features three grocery stores, two cafes, three hair and nail salons and several offices.

The three commercial blocks on 20th Street are zoned "NC-2;" the area is supposed to consist of neighborhood-serving businesses occupying up to 3,999 square feet of space and 40 feet building heights. In addition to the library, the temporary closure of which has punched a hole in the street's fabric, The Good Life Grocery is the block's main anchor. The store moved to 20th from 18th in 1985. "This is a great, tight, little community and we are very fortunate to have some great customers," said Lester Zeidman, the grocery's co-owner. The Good Life rents its location, so there's little room for expansion. "We have no intention of moving and closing and we are happy with the space," continued Zeidman. "We have never been one for the short-term. We've got loyal customers and we learned a long time ago everybody shops everywhere, but there is a need for a store like this in this community."

Several 20th Street outlets are similarly dedicated to the community. Linda Williams, who leads the street's State Farm Insurance office, is another mainstay; she's operated from the same space for more than

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From left: Wine House employees Anya Balistreri, David Netzer, Chris Anthony, and Tom Faust

Shop Local

The View sent Hill resident and photographer Emmanuel Schnetzler to snap some shots of cherished neighborhood businesses. See page 14 for what he came up with.

Organizers Ask Eastern Neighborhoods Property Owners to Invest in their Community

By Anthony Myers

A group of citizen-activists, entrepreneurs and property owners in the Central Waterfront, Showplace Square, and Northeast Mission have launched an initiative to create an Eastern Neighborhoods Urban Innovation Community Benefit District. The effort is modeled on the popular community benefit districts (CBD) formed around the City's retail corridors. While those districts focus mainly on sidewalk cleaning and graffiti removal, the Urban Innovation CBD seeks to spur economic development in the recently rezoned eastern neighborhoods.

Urban Innovation CBD is working to convince property owners in the Central Waterfront, NE Mission and Showplace Square neighborhoods to pay a special tax assessment to fund improvement projects. According to their website, www.urbaninnovationsf.org, those projects could include "branding, marketing and promotion of the district to businesses, brokers and outside residents and maintaining a website that promotes the neighborhoods." A nonprofit, public benefit corporation would manage the district, directed by the property owners who fund it. According to Steering Committee member and NE

Mission resident Kate Sofis, Urban Innovation hasn't yet estimated the cost of the assessment. "We have not yet begun calculating the various assessment scenarios," she said. "We will be doing this step once the initial survey results come back from the community, which will in turn help inform the services most in demand."

According to Urban Innovation Steering Committee member and Dogpatch resident Bruce Kin Huie, the current recession is the perfect time to launch the effort. "In this crisis lays our opportunity," he

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Struggle to Close Potrero Power Plant Continues

By Anthony Myers

Although this summer Mirant Corporation reached an agreement with City Attorney Dennis Herrera to shutter the Potrero Power Plant, last month the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) authorized continuing operation of the plant until the end of 2010. In adopting its staff's recommendations, the Cal-ISO board acknowledged that the plant's largest unit will no longer be needed once the Transbay Cable, a transmission line from the City of Pittsburg to the Dogpatch neighborhood, is operational this spring.

"The best news out of the hearing

is that ISO staff confirmed they are drafting contractual language that will end the must-run contract on the Potrero Unit Three smokestack upon spring 2010 completion of the Transbay Cable. But staff was non-committal on the timeline for removing must-run designation on Units Four, Five, and Six," said Joshua Arce, executive director of Brightline Defense. Unit Three is the plant's backbone, responsible for almost all of its annual output and associated polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions. Four, Five, and Six serve as diesel back-ups, whose use is constrained by air quality rules. The entire facility discharges superheated water into the

bay, in a likely to be banned practice called "once-through cooling."

In late-October Cal-ISO will formalize its must-run contract with the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission. However, that won't stop politicians and neighborhood activists from continuing their efforts to close all of one of the oldest and dirtiest plants in the state as soon as possible. "The San Francisco Public Utility Commission wants Mirant gone, everyone wants it gone but Cal-ISO," said Philip De Andrade, who chairs the Potrero Power Plant Citizen's Task Force. "Cal-ISO is a

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Publisher's View Jobs

By Steven J. Moss

Roughly one out of 10 San Franciscans – almost 45,000 residents – are looking for work. The City, like the state, is experiencing the highest unemployment levels in a quarter century. While things are bad for many San Franciscans, they're even worse in Bayview-Hunters Point, Little Hollywood, Silver Terrace, and Visitacion Valley – Potrero Hill's southern neighbors – where upwards of one out of three residents don't have a job.

Unemployment is nothing new to these neighborhoods. As reported in last month's *View* ("Southeast San Franciscans Continue to Search for Work") according to one Bayview resident, "...although the recession is hard this is how we live day to day anyway." Under-educated – in part due to poor quality public schools – unconnected, with social networks that, unlike wealthier communities, frequently don't provide avenues towards mainstream employment; and, in some cases, speaking English-as-a-second-language, many Southeast San Francisco residents are especially vulnerable when the economic tide goes out.

Jobs are created by the government, the private sector, or some combination of the two. Public sector employment, starting with the launch of the Works Progress Administration in 1935, followed by defense spending pumped into the Hunters Point Shipyard, Treasure Island Naval Base, and other locations, as well as hiring by the U.S. Post Office during the second half of the 20th century, helped create today's middle class, particularly among African-Americans. Both my grandfather, who worked as a civil engineer for the City of Chicago during the Depression, and my

father, an aerospace engineer who worked on the Apollo space launches, directly benefited from government-created jobs.

Although federal, state, and local governments provide paychecks to millions of Americans, the private sector, which is responsible for more than two-thirds of the national economy in a good year, employs even more. And it's predominately small businesses that create new jobs; two out of three new hires over the last year were by business with less than 500 employees. Small businesses also invest in their communities at higher levels than larger corporations. According to the San Francisco Locally Owned Merchant Alliance, diverting just 10 percent of purchases from national chain stores – Walgreens, McDonalds, Starbucks – to locally owned San Francisco enterprises would, each year, create 1,300 new jobs in the City.

Current federal employment efforts center on broad spending on education, energy, health care, and other socially desirable activities. A large chunk of change is going to training programs, particularly related to green jobs. The theory behind this spending is that it will jump-start the economy from its near-death experience last year, and help create the workforce of the future. Early evidence is that the federal investment has helped stop our economic free fall, and has temporarily patched holes in public schools and other essential budgets. But these expenditures will only create long-term jobs if they either lead to direct government hires, or spark new, sustainable, private

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Thoughts on a Sunny Sunday Morning

By Ed Lortz

As I sit in the fresh air enjoying the beautiful Potrero weather in my 24th year here, I'm mulling over the latest annoying news. As I try to ignore the out-of-town hog riders, I'm thinking about the loss of my favorite Hill restaurant to a greedy, arrogant landlord, the same one who ran off my favorite breakfast place, and who pressured the bar in his building to the point where they had to cater to noisy late night kids from out of the neighborhood to help pay the rent.

I've had the same tenant for 12 years in my downstairs unit. Maybe I'm a nice landlord, but the actions of some greedy arrogant landlords – GALs for short – really annoy me, so very un-San Francisco and definitely un-Potrero Hill. I'm not sure what I can do except boycott whatever goes into Eliza's space. My boycott of the previous GAL who ran off my favorite deli seems to have had some affect; they closed last month.

I'll be sorry to lose Eliza's and the staff with whom we have laughed and chatted for 15 years, all of whom seem resigned to unemployment. Many of them I remember from when the place opened. That place was the best place

for simple top-value dining.

But life goes on. Maybe GAL's aren't un-San Francisco. Maybe much of San Francisco has become greedy, arrogant, and inconsiderate in the almost 40 years I've lived here, whether bicyclists, pedestrians, drivers, or City supervisors. My house on the Hill is the longest I've ever lived anywhere by at least double, including the house in which I grew up. Since my arrival on the Hill, much, really almost everything, has changed, from schools to the influx of young parents, to the change of many restaurants, except Goat Hill, Farleys, and Blooms. Even Thai BBQ is gone. Oh yeah, and real estate prices have changed too.

I guess, at 65 years old, I'll learn to live with change, trying my best to be cheerful no matter what happens, to affect things from building heights to helicopters, and recycling the hell out of every piece of trash I can. Too bad I can't recycle GALs in the trash can. We can all push our politicians to remove the Proposition 13 protection for commercial buildings, maybe providing protection to neighborhood districts in the process. Maybe we can make this GAL the poster boy, like Sangiacomo was the poster boy for rent control.

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Preserving Candlestick Point for Future Generations

By Mark Leno

In a time of unprecedented and painful state budget cuts, at least 100 of California's treasured state parks are on the chopping block, and could be closed to local residents and visitors. For San Francisco, that means the possible shuttering of Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, the state's first urban park, which is located in the Bayview-Hunters Point.

After decades of broken promises and limited funding from the state, this waterfront park has never realized its full potential. More than two-thirds of it is used for parking during San Francisco 49ers football games, and vast areas of Candlestick Point are underutilized. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has twice proposed the closure of the park to help reduce the state's budget deficit. There's no reason to believe the park will remain open much longer given our state's dire fiscal situation.

Earlier this year I introduced a bill that seeks to protect Candlestick Point despite these fiscal challenges. Senate Bill 792 provides a stable funding source for the park's future operation, including \$10 million for maintenance and \$40 million for park improvements. The bill also doubles the amount of improved parkland that can be utilized for biking, hiking, boating and other recreational activities.

SB 792 authorizes the exchange of state land, most of which can be used for parking under current law, with the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) to complete a development project that was overwhelmingly approved by San Francisco voters in 2008 (Proposition G). That plan calls for 10,500 new residential homes, up to 35 percent of which will be offered at below-market rates, and millions of square feet of job-generating commercial and retail space, including what will be the state's largest center for green technology companies. The project also includes the rebuilding of the Alice Griffith public housing development, and ensures that more than 300 acres of new and restored open space and recreational areas will be created in the area.

Since introducing SB 792 in January, I've worked extensively with

local groups, including the Sierra Club, Arc Ecology and Friends of Candlestick Park, to create a bill that provides better protections for the park's natural habitat, including migratory birds. The bill deletes existing state law that allows more than two-thirds – 80 acres – of parkland to be used for public parking. It also expressly confirms that there will be no exemptions to state-mandated environmental impact reviews. As a result of these negotiations, the above-mentioned groups have removed their initial opposition to the bill, and are now neutral.

SB 792 is sponsored by CCSF, and supported by a broad coalition of community leaders, organizations and residents, including District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, the San Francisco Labor Council, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Pastor Arelious Walker, Bayview Merchants Association, Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Center, Alice Griffith Tenants Association, Asian Pacific Democratic Club and the San Francisco Housing Action Coalition.

During the challenging process to resolve the state's budget deficit, I heard from thousands of people from across the Third Senate District and throughout California who urged me and my colleagues to find a way to save our state parks from the budget ax. I'm proud to have authored a bill that achieves this goal and protects one of our City's most precious assets from closure.

I was a lead legislative advocate for a \$15 vehicle license fee increase that would have kept all of our state parks open and provided unlimited access to the entire state parks system. However, that plan was shelved during final budget negotiations. We now find ourselves needing to develop innovative ways to save our state parks. SB 792 is a practical solution for Candlestick Point. It redevelops and improves our treasured but underutilized park and secures its future operation and maintenance so it is forever preserved for future generations.

Senator Mark Leno represents the Third Senate District of California, which includes portions of San Francisco and Sonoma Counties and all of Marin County.

Don't Sell Candlestick Point Park

By Eric Brooks

A diverse coalition of environmental and social justice organizations are criticizing California State Senator Mark Leno for authoring Senate Bill (SB) 792, which was approved by the legislature last month, and now awaits the governor's signature. SB 792 will destroy portions of San Francisco's Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. Candlestick is the state's only urban state park wetland and wildlife habitat, and is the only significant open space and hiking area for residents of Bayview-Hunters Point, a neighborhood that has long been plagued by toxic emissions from various industries, freeway bypasses, and the contaminated remnants of the U.S. naval shipyard, which was once housed there. Lennar Corporation will build luxury condominiums and a yacht harbor development on the parkland.

POWER, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Stop

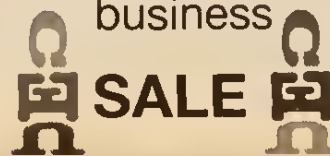
Lennar Action Movement, The San Francisco Green Party, Our City and many others opposed SB 792.

These organizations are outraged that Leno rammed through the bill without first holding public hearings, and accused Leno of becoming a broker of corporate real estate interests.

"Senator Leno's behavior has been unconscionable," said POWER leader and Bayview resident Esselene Stancil, "Without holding a single public hearing with either the Bayview-Hunters Point or the greater San Francisco community, Leno has condemned precious parkland to destruction, and paved the way for the Bayview-Hunters Point to be further gentrified by the out-of-state, corporate real estate giant Lennar, which is already poisoning the neighborhood with asbestos and other hazardous materials in its existing construction projects."

Eric Brooks is Sustainability Chair of the San Francisco Green Party

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Short Cuts

Riding the Rails

Some Potrero Hill residents have found the sound of Caltrain's horns less than soothing. The horn blasts start as early at 4:55 a.m., and can be intermittently heard throughout the day up until midnight. The recent increase in tootings may have been prompted by two vehicular accidents that occurred at the 16th street crossing within the past year. Both happened during the late-afternoon rush hour, and blocked traffic into and out of 4th and King streets for roughly two hours. One damaged the crossing signal, which caused trickle-down delays for the next week while it was repaired and certified for full-speed operation. Caltrain engineers are required to sound their horns a quarter mile before every grade crossing, where a street crosses the tracks. There are 44 crossings between San Francisco and San Jose. Engineers also sound the horn when they see a pedestrian near the tracks. The increase in horn volume was caused by a safety inspection that discovered that Caltrain's horns were not producing the distinct, separate, sequential blasts required under federal rules. The horns had been placed on the underside of locomotives and cab cars in response to community concerns about noise. To comply with regulations, the Federal Railroad Administration asked Caltrains to return the horns to their original position on top of the trains. Moving the horns increased their volume and range. Caltrain is trying to come up with a way to return the horns to the trains' undersides while still satisfying federal requirements. Grade-separated crossings, as proposed by high-speed rail, would eliminate the need for engineers to sound horns...Speaking of noise, Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and South-of-Market residents are none to happy about the helicopter traffic that seemed to intensify over the neighborhoods last month. Some of the increase blade running was related to filming of NBC's drama *Trauma*, an apt description of how the decibels affected the community.

Sidewalk Rest Stops

After more than a decade and a half run, **Eliza's Restaurant** called it quits last month, though they'll keep

their California Street location open. Some Hill residents are blaming the restaurant's avaricious landlord for forcing the popular eatery out. Either way, Eliza's has been a Hill mainstay, a go-to place for a casual business lunch or family feast. It will be sorely missed...The Lower Potrero trial plaza – how's that for a sexy name – is up on 8th Street between **Axis Café** and **Wolfe's**. The space features three patches of lawn within frames of rough granite curbing, with polish black granite squares serving as seating. To keep out traffic the area is encircled by upended concrete sewer pipes, as well as graffiti covered Dumpsters planted with trees, a rather odd metaphor for the neighborhood. While Axis welcomes the new space, and plans to add street-side dining to their operation, they had trouble with the noise skateboarders were making while using the new fixtures for tricks almost immediately. Enjoy it now, and if you do let the City know about it: it's temporary until proven permanent...According to Department of Recreation and Park spokeswoman Lisa Seitz-Gruel, one of the pylons in the **Jackson Park Recreation Center** is sinking, and must be replaced. Bids will soon be taken for the work. While the building is under construction, indoor activities which used to take place at the center are being held at the **Potrero Hill Recreation Center** on Arkansas Street...In Dogpatch, look for more construction along Third Street around 18th and 20th streets. A 16-unit, 58-foot tall building is being proposed on 20th Street, with construction starting as early as next year, if financing can be secured. Meanwhile, **Martin Building Company** is proceeding with its 68-foot tall, 196-unit – somewhat higher and denser than originally proposed – building along Third Street. That development will include a small, possibly upscale, grocery on the bottom floor, as well as an on-site day care. No small irony that children will be welcome at the one- to two-bedroom complex, which will almost certainly be inhabited by mostly single, and young, commuters or University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Mission Bay staff or students. Martin has started removing contaminated dirt from the Illinois Street side of the construction project.

Breaking Bad

A gang-related fistfight at **Papa Potrero's Pizza** at 24th Street and Potrero Avenue erupted into gunfire last month, leaving two men dead of multiple gunshot wounds and a third man injured. Police arrested two suspects shortly after the shootings. One of the victims staggered down 24th Street and collapsed on the sidewalk in front of another restaurant, **Manivanh Thai**, where he was pronounced dead. The other two victims were transported to **San Francisco General Hospital**, where one later died and one is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries...**Sundance Café**, on the corner of Third and 20th streets, was broken into in the early morning hours on an August week day. Someone shattered a large side window, climbed into the café, and stole an entire cash register, leaving nothing but hanging cords and lots of broken glass. Unfortunately for the assailant, the register was empty, and the robbers neglected to grab the cash box under the register, or mess with the café's recently installed ATM. After a brief clean-up and police investigation, the café managed to serve its patrons using a solar calculator and cash box to record transactions...

Biotechnology Award

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, a research scientist at the **J. David Gladstone Institute**, located at the UCSF's Mission Bay campus, has been awarded the 2009 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for his discovery of a method of reprogramming adult skin cells to become embryonic-like stem cells. The Lasker Awards are among the most respected science prizes. Yamanaka shared the honor with Cambridge University's John

Gurdon, who established the basic principles of reprogramming that led to Yamanaka's discoveries... No awards were being offered to University of California regents when they gathered last month at Mission Bay. Police arrested 14 protesters, who briefly shut-down the meeting, and who are livid about proposed 32 percent tuition increases, on top of massive staff lay-offs and furloughs. We may still have the top scientists, but basic educational services are slipping out of our hands. If the downward slide in our state's education system continues we'll soon look more like a developing country than the world's largest economy.

New Website

Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster Preschool (PKDW) launched its new website last month, www.pkdw.org. PKDW, a Spanish bilingual pre-school program, serves 38 children, a quarter of whom are on scholarship. Three-quarters of last year's graduating class, the school's first, are now attending **Daniel Webster Elementary School**.

View Changes

Michael Accomazzo, who has been ably producing the *View* for the past year or so, while also helping to implement **San Francisco Community Power's** small business energy management programs, will be jetting off to Asia after this issue hits the streets. Accomazzo has long wanted to tour that continent, and is seizing the opportunity to visit friends. His work will be picked up by **Lisa Tehrani**, who lately has been wooing advertisers for the paper. Happy trails, Mike, and many thanks for your good work!

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(Propositions A through D did not receive the 60% vote required for endorsement, so the Club takes no position on these.)

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Starr King Openspace Threatened by Proposed Development

By Mary Purpura

Potrero Hill is blessed. Besides the beautiful views, sunny weather, great restaurants and cafes, independently owned businesses, a vital, responsive neighborhood newspaper, and dynamic, actively involved community members – besides all that – the neighborhood boasts San Francisco's only privately owned, hilltop open space: Starr King Openspace, which stretches from 23rd and Carolina streets to 24th and De Haro.

All kinds of flora and fauna flourish at the open space. Red-tailed hawks, mourning doves, crows, and mockingbirds; Hill residents, with tripods arranged just so, taking photos of the Golden Gate Bridge – visible on a clear day – or Twin Peaks. For several weeks every spring, a succession of native wildflowers bloom, including the Mariposa lily, farewell-to-spring, and the California poppy. Some of the wildflowers that blossom on Starr King are precisely adapted to the rocky, serpentine grassland that characterizes Potrero Hill, and have been carefully propagated or transplanted from other Hill sites to the Openspace by volunteers. In the spring, Potrero Hill resident and native plant enthusiast Ralph Hunter leads free wildflower walks through the space.

"We're in the middle of an urban environment," said Hill resident and Starr King Openspace Board Member Dale Scott. "This is a special oasis in the City." "Open space is a unique designation, distinct from a park," explained David Guber, vice president of the Starr King Board and a Hill resident. A park can include structures, but open space can't. "Starr King Openspace offers a place where people in the neighborhood can experience a touch of nature and the spirit of rejuvenation that comes along with that. It gives us a destination where we can get away from the hustle and bustle and hard edges of the City, away from concrete, steel, and glass. It's also the only space of its kind on the south side of Potrero Hill," said Guber.

Starr King became dedicated open space in 1984, when Barratt Construction, Inc., the company that built Parkview Heights – the 120-unit, planned urban development on the south side of Potrero Hill – struck a deal with the City. In exchange for a variance that allowed the contractors to build on smaller lots, Barratt

agreed to break-up and haul away the large, concrete construction pads left after public housing had been demolished on the 3.5-acre parcel that is now Starr King Openspace. Owned by a nonprofit, Starr King is managed by a nine-person board elected by Potrero Hill residents, with the current board installed last May.

Some of those who ran for the board earlier this year were galvanized by the proposed development at 1321 De Haro Street. For decades, 1321 De Haro Street has been a single-family residence. In 1992, a judge granted the then-owner of 1321 a right of easement to drive along Coral Road, which crosses what is now Starr King Openspace. The house, despite its De Haro Street address, had no access from De Haro Street. The owner had been using Coral Road to get to his property long before Starr King officially became open space.

Recently, the property changed hands. The new owner wants to demolish the current house, replace it with a three-unit building, and retain the right of easement allowing cars to pass through the adjacent Starr King Openspace to the new units. "The current proposal will more than quadruple the size of the building on that site," said Guber, "from 1,100 square feet to 5,300 square feet. Because the development means a change from a single unit to three units, there would be more cars driving across the open space to get to that building." Guber pointed out that a much taller building on the site would shade patches of the open space where wildflowers – that need sunshine to grow – have bloomed in past years. "The location of these proposed units – visually in the middle of the open space and at its highest point – will change the character of the space," said Dale Scott.

Some Hill residents have been frustrated by the project architect's inaccessibility. "I went to an early meeting in the neighborhood about the development," said Dick Millett, Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association first vice president and a 40-year Potrero Hill resident. "The original plan was to access the property through De Haro Street. That made sense. Everybody else on the 1300-block of De Haro Street enters from De Haro. When the new plans emerged to keep the

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Your City Your Vote Your Voice

November 3, 2009 Municipal Election



This November, San Francisco voters will elect the City Attorney and Treasurer, as well as vote on 5 local ballot measures.

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Potrero Hill Health Care Advocates Work for Change

By Mike Stillman

As debates over what to do about federal health care policy rage throughout the country, several Potrero Hill residents have turned their neighborhood into an unassuming center of reform activity. By avoiding the use of scare tactics and wild accusations that have marred the issue, three women have quietly affected the viewpoints of hundreds of individuals.

Margaret Keyes, Bonnie Baron, and Daphne Magnawa all believe that a change needs to be made to America's health care system. Although they were drawn to the issue for different reasons, and don't share the same vision for the future of America's health care system, their activism efforts center on the same principles. These three Potrero Hill residents share the belief that respecting all sides is essential to avoid preaching to the choir.

"You're not going to change someone's mind if you hate them," said Margaret Keyes, who has been involved with health care reform since 1947, when she wrote a high school term paper on socialized medicine. Still active and articulate at age 80, Keyes sends out group emails about health care reform to a sizable contact list from her home on Wisconsin Street. She also works the telephone, and attends rallies. Keyes estimates that she's spoken to 300 people about health care. Her efforts have intensified lately, as the U.S. House of Representatives may vote on a health care reform bill by the end of this month.

Keyes, the daughter of a longshoreman, grew up listening to conversations about union and community issues, such as living wages, adequate compensation, and affordable health care. Keyes later attended the University of Chicago, where she learned about community

organizing, and went on to direct a family service agency. "I've always been concerned about community problems, and health care is the core issue right now," Keyes said. In her opinion, the current system is, "manifestly absurd, it does not represent common sense or the common interest or the common good."

Keyes believes that the best approach would be to establish a single payer system, in which for-profit insurance companies are eliminated, and all medical expenses are paid for by the government using a single pool of money that's amassed through taxes and other sources. But she strives to create a sense of community and hope amongst all types of health care reform activists. "It's not like there's one winner and it's a prize fight, it's a matter of a process, you are working to shift a change in the direction of the values that you hold," Keyes said.

Although previous attempts at health care reform have failed, Keyes believes that Barack Obama's election will have a significant impact on reform efforts, both in Washington, D.C. and at the local level. Keyes sees Obama's victory as a success story for grassroots organizing, an event that will keep American citizens involved with political issues.

Utah Street resident Daphne Magnawa was drawn into health care as a result of Obama's election. Magnawa said she's always been a community activist, but felt jaded by politics and never took part in national causes until she started volunteering for Obama for America. Magnawa is now a staunch advocate for the creation of a public health insurance option. In recent months she's attended and helped organize rallies and letter writing campaigns, gone door to door in Potrero Hill to gather signatures and distribute literature, and gives up part of her

weekends to sit at a table in Dolores Park and talk with people about health care reform. Magnawa is not a single payer advocate, but rather wants to see a public health insurance option offered to people who don't currently have coverage.

"The public option is not a take over of the health care industry, it's just a government run program that will compete with others... it's for those people that don't have insurance or are under insured or can't get insurance because they have preexisting conditions and they need help. It's insuring those 45 million people [who do not have insurance] so they don't use emergency rooms as their wellness center," she said.

Those opposed to the public health care option assert that taxpayers will have to cover the costs of health insurance for the unemployed. However, according to Magnawa, "We're already paying for other people's health care, we just don't know it." Insurance companies pass on the cost of hospital care for the uninsured to their customers through the premiums they charge, Magnawa said. Since she's already paying for the uninsured, Magnawa would rather pay slightly higher taxes and have the issue be out in the open.

Bonnie Baron, a 34-year Wisconsin Street resident, is a single payer advocate who became involved with health care reform efforts

after her father, who was suffering from dementia-like symptoms, was dropped from his insurance for missing a couple monthly payments. "That was just a very bitter pill, it further enlightened me about what happens when there is a profit motive involved in health care, it's not a very good picture," Baron said.

Baron has been a member of Single Payer Now for the past six years. In addition to attending the organization's monthly meetings, she writes letters to politicians and articles about single payer health care for local newspapers, including the *View*. She also attends demonstrations throughout the Bay Area and in Sacramento. While working on the issue Baron has encountered a number of misinformed reform opponents. "I can't tell you how many people have gotten confused about what single payer means. Their reaction changes when they find out it is basically Medicare for all. There are reports of people who have Medicare, who are objecting to a government take over of health care, not knowing it's a government program. That just shocks me," she said.

Baron, like Magnawa and Keyes, stressed the importance of showing respect for people on the other side of the issue. When asked how best to change someone's mind, Baron said,

Continued on Page 26

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Kepa Askenasy's garden was one of the green spaces that participated in Potrero Hill's Hidden Gems Garden Tour. The event attracted 170 garden gawkers, and raised \$3,500 to furnish and equip the Potrero Branch Library. Photos by Peter Linethal.



Last month the Potrero Hill Community Garden received a visit from a feathered friend. Photograph by Tricia Lawrence



Don Prell, who has lived on Pennsylvania Avenue since 1971, celebrated his 80th birthday by walking across the Golden Gate Bridge, stopping mid-span to play a solo concert with his string bass. Prell was a member of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra for more than 30 years. He plays jazz every Tuesday night at the Bayview Boat Club as part of "The Seabop Ensemble." Prell shares a birthday with Barack Obama (1961) and Louis Armstrong (1901).

POTRERO HILL SAYS GOOD-BYE TO ELIZA'S

After 16-years, Eliza's has closed its 18th Street location. Like Klein's Deli and The Daily Scoop before it, it will be missed. In honor of our departed Chinese restaurant, and all of the neighborhood businesses that have blessed our community over the years, the View offers the following memories, submitted by Potrero Hill Parent's Association members:

Many years ago, I took my great uncle to Eliza's. He had just gotten off a plane from the Philippines and we had lunch there. He loved it so much he raved about it for years. He would always say 'thank you for taking me to that fancy restaurant.' -*The Magnawa-Crawford Family*

I always take my out-of town guests to Eliza's and they marvel at the Matisse decor and the quality of the food. We went there for New Year's Eve one year. I had both of my favorite dishes: Princess Prawns and Snow Peas & Pine Nuts. Kevin had a wonderful duck with fresh steamed buns. We had a nice bottle of wine and walked home. It was the best New Year's Eve dinner I've ever had. I wish they would stay open at least until New Year's Eve. -*Fran Cullen and Kevin Farley*

I've practically raised my son on Buddha's Delight with \$2 of extra tofu since the first day Eliza's opened. Take out at least once a week and sometimes twice. We never even had to order; they already knew when we walked in the door. -*Nancy Cech*

We've loved Eliza's. Consistent quality at a fair price and fast. For us, a family with a toddler, time and quality make a big difference. -*Valerie Blanquils*

We had lunch at Eliza's in 1997 while trying the neighborhood out for size. It helped clinch Potrero Hill for us. Twelve years and two kids later and we're still here! -*Nicki and Cort Dugan*

Hearing that Eliza's on 18th will close makes me very sad. The food is consistently superb and so is the service. I'm always amazed at the speed of take-out orders. Thank you for the many years that I have enjoyed your wonderful restaurant. -*Caroline Hinshaw*

Well, I can't imagine the gargantuan sustained effort it must have required to run a restaurant so well for so many years! This was my kitchen for the first two years I lived on the Hill, more than ten years ago! Also, this is the only restaurant in our little two-block-dining district that has generously participated in the Dine Around for Aids Emergency fund. Losing our friends at Eliza's means we'll be losing both a longtime neighborhood gathering place and a strong community supporter! -*Sharon Tetlow*

Thanks for the MuShu Vegetable with extra holsin sauce for all these years. -*Caroline Paul*

We will miss Eliza's very much. Where else can I go and hand over my baby to our server as I enjoy a lovely meal? -*Jim, Mary, and Kate Kehoe*

Thank you for giving the Ludwig family nine years of great food in such a warm and inviting atmosphere. We will miss you!

Eliza's has been a great place to take the whole family. The staff is terrific with the kids and really know how to encourage toddlers into eating all their noodles for a special cookie reward! -*The Gilliland and Smith Families*

Eliza's is the reason we live in and love Potrero Hill. We were coming back from the airport one night in 2003 and we knew that there was an Eliza's outpost in Potrero Hill so we hopped off the freeway at Mariposa Street and parked in front of a home just off 18th Street that had a very small for rent sign in the window. After having a delicious meal at Eliza's, we took the landlord's number down and called the very next day. We saw the apartment that same day and signed the lease the following day. We have eaten at Eliza's at least once a week since then! -*The Berks*

Please give a heart felt good-bye and best wishes on behalf of Potrero Hill Psychotherapy. -*Tamara Hicks*

By the time you hang up the phone, the food is ready for pick-up. They've been a lifesaver on the countless nights we had no idea what to have for dinner, and no patience to wait for take-out! We will miss Eliza's spicy chicken, and eggplant with spicy sauce most of all. -*The Doles*

Thank You - Xie Xie

Sunflower Shining on the Hill

By Birgitte Gilliland



The recently opened Sunflower restaurant is a welcome addition to Potrero Hill's 18th Street restaurant row, recently diminished by the loss of Eliza's Restaurant. The new dining establishment is an offshoot of its popular Mission namesake. Hill residents can take heart that this promising and affordable location has taken up residence where Baraka and so many others failed to flourish.

You'd be forgiven if upon entering Sunflower you didn't feel immediately transported to Southeast Asia. But it's not the presence of Baraka's leftover, quite red, Moroccan décor that temporarily confuses. What's noticeably absent is the characteristic aroma of Southeast Asia's flavors and perfumes. For my taste, many of Sunflower's dishes could have used more mint, lime, coriander and Thai basil. But the kitchen has more than enough talent to quickly remedy that issue.

What Sunflower has in abundance is fresh ingredients, generous portions, and friendly and attentive service that seem sincerely happy to please



Sizzling seafood platter.

even the youngest diners. My kids loved the pan-fried rice noodles with chicken (\$7.95) and the side of brown rice (\$1.75), which we marketed as "chocolate rice."

The kitchen fared well at producing tasty entrees with garlic, lemongrass and chili. The lemongrass



Chilled coconut.



Clay pot w/ prawns, chicken and sausage. Photos by Birgitte Gilliland.

beef was tender and pleasantly ginger spiced (\$9.25); the clay pot featured a plentiful mix of chicken, prawns and flavorful sausage (\$7.95); and the sizzling seafood platter was a sweet heat delight of prawns, calamari wedges and delicate white fish sautéed in garlic and red chili

paste (\$12.95). Noodles are the bread and butter of any Vietnamese restaurant. Sunflower's garlic noodles (\$6.95), and Sunflower Prawns (\$14.95), boast a devoted following on Yelp. I, however, preferred the pan-fried rice noodles, which are served with the protein of your choice; these noodles were soft, elastic and slightly firm to the tooth.

Sunflower enjoys a brisk lunch business, churning out seven different specials for \$8.50, all accompanied by a crisp and garlicky imperial roll. The Vietnamese pancake appetizer (\$7.95) would make for a satisfying lunch on its own. The rice flour pancake was overstuffed with chicken, shrimp and bean sprouts, and served with a heaping plate of crisp lettuce, mint, cucumbers and carrot slaw. The pleasant temperature contrast between the hot, crunchy pancake and the cool garnishes was fun to eat, though I longed for a perkier dipping sauce.

I generally find dessert jaunts at most affordable ethnic restaurants a misstep, but if you feel like a treat, try the chilled coconut juice (\$3.50), which arrives in its well-groomed shell. It was a refreshing finish to spoon out the silky coconut flesh in lieu of something sweet.

In the wake of the loss of Eliza's, after a memorable 16-year run, many Hill residents are wondering where to go locally for satisfying rice, noodles and sautéed vegetables. Sunflower Vietnamese restaurant has gamely stepped up to fill part of the new void.



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The Hilltop Grazer

Persistence has paid off for Moshi Moshi. When Mits Akashi opened his sushi restaurant on 18th and Third streets in 1987, live-work condominiums hadn't yet been constructed in Dogpatch, and only

a handful of businesses operated nearby. Locals were steadily drawn to the restaurant, mainly by Mits' buoyant personality and the friendly staff. Mits still greets every diner personally as he wanders the room clutching a teapot full of hot sake, urging customers to try a glass on the house. But truth to tell, back in the day the food wasn't the main attraction; it was mediocre, though fairly-priced.

Somehow Moshi Moshi survived the Third Street Light Rail construction. For three years there was nowhere to park, the roads were torn up and there was a cloud of dust hovering outside the restaurant's entrance. Mits slowly made improvements, adding modern furnishings and tableware; fine art on the walls; a clean, fresh look and a choice of three dining areas.

In the past, the restaurant's weakness was its food. But today Moshi serves some of the best sushi around. The menu features numerous choices, with nightly specials of the freshest raw fish in the market. Add to that the extensive cocktail menu and you can see why Moshi Moshi draws diverse crowds. Moshi Moshi is the ultimate neighborhood joint. Bayview families; parents with their young kids along with their octogenarian grandparents; long tables of 20-somethings whooping it up; and Hill residents who've treated Moshi as a second home for the past two decades.

The Hilltop Grazer (aka, the Gourmet Goat) usually passes on the entrees and orders appetizers and sushi dishes. The entrees are good, solid food; the Bento box is an especially good deal; a whole meal for around \$13. But, white rice and grilled salmon or tuna doesn't perk up this Goat's ears.

Rustic dishes, like the piriten appetizer (\$8.95) – grease-free calamari and green beans in a tempura batter tossed with sautéed onions and diced jalapenos – have this Goat bleating with joy. The gyoza (Japanese dumplings; \$7.95 for six) have a silky texture and slide

right down; especially good when chased by a Sapporo or an Anchor Steam draft beer.

The Dynasty of Love maki roll (\$13.95) is divine – a whole meal in a roll; this is better than chewing the cud at Jackson Playground. Maybe the best maki roll in the City! The udon soups (\$9 to \$12) are especially welcome on a cool San Francisco day. The menu has a two page cocktail list, several different sakes, fine beers on draft and some acceptable wines. But who drinks wine with sushi?

Mits and the Moshi crowd are raising the bar and people are noticing. Become one of the Moshi Moshi family and you'll have a second home on the Hill.

Ratings:

Food – 2 ½ bleets

Service – 2 ½ bleets

Atmosphere – 2 bleets (3 bleets when the joint is jumping!)

Community – 4 bleets

Our ratings are on a four bleet scale, with our community category reflecting the contribution the restaurant makes to Hill life. The Hilltop Grazer is a new monthly feature.

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Daniel Webster Elementary School Chalks One Up for Peace

By Dena Fischer

Last month Daniel Webster Elementary School hosted a Back to School barbeque, welcoming parents to their children's classrooms. Thanks to Webster's Parent-Teacher Association President, Beth Gould, Webster was the only San Francisco school to participate in Chalk4Peace. Even a rainy day didn't stop Webster's students, parents, and teachers from chalking out their visions for a more peaceful planet.

Started in 2005 in Washington, DC, Chalk4Peace is an international event. This year more than 20,000 participants chalked on 2,000 sites on four continents. Chalk4Peace isn't an anti-war demonstration; rather, it's a creative presentation for artists of all ages based on the theme of Peace. Whole Foods, a Chalk4Peace sponsor, provided the main BBQ fixin's, and Webster families brought a scrumptious array of side dishes and desserts to make the day even sweeter.

Photographs by Jerry Downs Photography/Larkspur, California.



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There's a Naturopathic Doctor in the Neighborhood

By Sarah Marloff

In August Carl Hangee-Bauer and his wife Michele celebrated San Francisco Natural Medicine's 20th anniversary. The business was originally called Soma Acupuncture and Natural Health Clinic, and for nine years was located on Folsom Street. In 1998 Hangee-Bauer was walking his dog down the block from his house and noticed the "practice closing" sign in the window of 1615 20th Street. He and his wife, who serves as the clinic's office manager, soon met with the landlords and signed a 15-year lease.

Hangee-Bauer decided to pursue a career in naturopathic medicine after completing his four years as an officer in the Army Medical Service Corps, stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. "I got interested in running and natural foods and getting more fit. Some of my friends in Seattle had gone on to become naturopathic doctors. It's common sense medicine, with a lot of first steps people have to make in order to take care of themselves. And then it hit me." He graduated with an degree in Naturopathic Medicine from Bastyr University in 1984. After completing a year of residency at Bastyr, he and Michele decided to move south for "better weather."

Unlike Washington, natural medicine wasn't licensed in California. Hangee-Bauer decided to



enroll in the San Francisco College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, since acupuncture and naturopathic medicine share similar ideologies. "I really like acupuncture. It gets good results and people like it. If it didn't work it would have gone

out of fashion years ago." Today, Hangee-Bauer uses acupuncture to enhance the naturopathic process. For example, according to Hangee-Bauer acupuncture is a good way to begin to address allergies, enabling patients to make progress while dietary changes and herbal remedies take root. "Eventually [the patient] will need the acupuncture less and less."

Hangee-Bauer was one of 15 founders of the California Naturopathic Association. After several legislative attempts, natural medicine was licensed by the state in 2003. Two years later Hangee-Bauer was the second practitioner in California to be licensed. The clinic quickly broadened its treatment

modalities, employing herbal medicines, focusing on dietary changes, and acupuncture. Today, San Francisco Natural Medicine has two other naturopathic doctors, as well as a massage therapist and other health care providers. "Think of the family doctor. That's who we are except we use natural medicine. We don't just cover up symptoms, we look for the cause; and if someone needs to see a doctor we have a great relationship with Dr. Justin Davis-Hous." Dr. Hous, who practices western medicine, also lives and works on Potrero Hill.

The Hangee-Bauers' originally intended to move to Monterey as soon as Carl finished acupuncture school, but the couple "fell in love with Potrero Hill, so we bought a house here and just stayed. We've lived on the Hill for 24 years now. Michele has been an officer of the Potrero Association of Merchants and Business. We have deep roots on Potrero Hill." Many of the clinic's patients live in the neighborhood. "We feel kind of like a community clinic, but we see a lot of people from all over. Some patients come from San Jose and Sacramento, they seek out [naturopathic medicine]."

Dr Hangee-Bauer was recently elected president of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, with a term that extends to 2012. "I've been involved with naturopathic politics for years. Working to bring it to more people and give them choices other than just which HMO to join...The word 'doctor' means to teach, as in to teach people how to take care of themselves. They need you for a while and then they can figure it out on their own. I'm really glad I stumbled into this. I've met a lot of nice people and I feel like I walk lightly on this earth. If I wanted to get rich I would have become a plastic surgeon."

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How Our Gardens Grow

By Mary Renner

"Annie's" garden, at the Interstate 280 exit at 18th and Pennsylvania, was recently joined by a smaller plot next door, in part due to the efforts of Robert Poyas and Anna Stern, 18th Street residents. Earlier this year, a group of volunteers, including Potrero Hill Garden Club members, planted 125 lavenders, day lilies, ceanothus, yarrow, and butterfly bushes.

The land belongs to Caltrans, which provides the water for the irrigation system Poyas repaired. Poyas also took charge of rototilling amendment into the soil after Anna Stern, Mary Renner, and Janet Carpenelli weeded the area and, with the help of some day laborers, pulled-up half of the ivy that had been on the plot.

Monthly maintenance, by volunteer gardeners, will be held the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11; all are welcome to the party. If you're not an early bird, Annie Shaw's work party is also held the first Saturday of the month, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m..

To contact the Potrero Hill Garden Club; 648.1926.



Starr King

Continued from Page 5

Coral Road easement, we invited the architect to make a presentation at the Neighborhood House. He refused. He told us that if we wanted to meet, we could go to his office, during business hours." Millett believes that such a meeting arrangement compromises transparency and broad community involvement.

"The new owner of 1321 De Haro and his representatives have consistently avoided public discussion of their project," said Tony Kelly, Boosters president. "If the Starr King Openspace land was built – as condos, a rec center, a landscaped park, anything but a natural area – it would be obvious to everyone that the owner of 1321 De Haro couldn't ask to use some of that land as a private driveway for his proposed condos. Instead, our neighborhood is on the verge of being penalized for keeping some of its land in a natural state because other forces – in private development and in the SF Planning Department – see the Openspace as a vacant lot. That isn't fair, and that is why we are fiercely protecting the Openspace."

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association has filed for a discretionary review of 1321 De Haro Street's building permit application. Under this process the San Francisco Planning Commission is charged with reviewing unusual circumstances associated with a proposed project. The Commission has scheduled a public hearing on October 15 to begin to evaluate the existing structure's demolition, the backyard variance necessary to accommodate the bigger structure, building design, and the proposed easement.

Volunteers are welcome every third Saturday at Starr King Openspace from 9:30 to noon. For more information:

<http://starrkingopenspace.org>

Get a Job!

By Mauri Schwartz



The View asked Hill resident and career expert Mauri Schwartz President/CEO of Career Insiders, to answer questions from job seekers. Submit your questions to editor@potreroview.net

Though times are tough, all is not hopeless. At a recent San Francisco job fair Toshiba, Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco Housing Authority, National Park Service, Prudential Financial, Golden Gate University, and others were recruiting candidates for more than 600 jobs. Even if you missed the event, now you know who is hiring. Go for it!

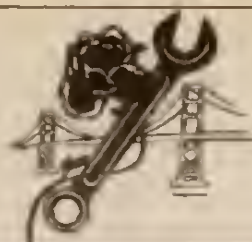
Q: A colleague recently told me that I've over-priced myself, but I feel that based on my experience and past compensation, I should be paid what I'm worth at this point in my career. What's your opinion?

A: Make sure you're realistic about current salaries for your target position; you may have to accept a lateral or slightly lower base salary in today's market. What you think

you should be making doesn't apply these days. It will hurt you to get stuck on this. It's necessary to let the ego go. It's more important to look at your annual compensation for your last position and consider how much you're losing by holding out and remaining unemployed. Salaries will go up again one day, and you can reconsider your market worth at that time.

Q: What are your thoughts about cover letters? I have a standard letter that I use for every position, but I'm not getting many responses.

A: Remember that your cover letter and resume are the first writing samples a recruiter or hiring manager will see. If you claim you communicate well in writing, and you've done a poor job of creating your initial message, you'll be presenting yourself in a bad light right off the bat. A cover letter should be carefully tailored to the job for which you're applying, not a recitation or laundry list of your skills. It should also indicate that you've selected this specific job at this specific company for a reason; that you've done some homework to get to know them. I've often said that a job search is like dating. The other person wants to be courted and made to feel special. When there are more jobs than candidates, the employer is doing the courting. In the current market, the candidate must do the courting.



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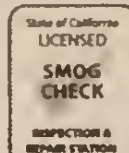
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Community Benefit District

Continued from Front Page

said. The CBD effort comes in the wake of recently completed efforts to reorganize land uses under the *Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan*. Adopted earlier this year, the *Plan* rezoned much of Southern San Francisco in a quest to create balanced neighborhoods in what was historically an industrial part of the City, according to the San Francisco Planning Department's website. "The purpose of this CBD, is largely to focus on...the primarily PDR [production, distribution, and repair] zoned parts of the Mission, Potrero, and the Central Waterfront," Sofis said.

Areas zoned as PDR are dedicated to light industrial uses, excluding housing and offices. Over the past two decades the City has seen a steady loss of PDR jobs, and with them the blue collar wages that used to support families living in Southeast San Francisco. "We support the range of businesses here and hopefully new business," said Gwen Kaplan, who works at Ace Mailing, and is a Steering Committee member. "The district should be approved in a couple years. The mayor and board are very supportive."

Although the CBD will ultimately have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors, the challenge is to convince property owners to support the new tax. Urban Innovation has launched a fundraising campaign,

and hopes to win a grant from the Mayor's office of Economic and Workforce Development. Over the past four years CBD's have become fashionable throughout San Francisco. Seven districts are now operating – including Union Square and Fisherman's Wharf – with three more – Ocean Avenue, the Excelsior, and Urban Innovation – in early development stages.

Although Urban Innovation CBD's website focuses on business development, once the district is established it will decide for itself how funding will be directed. For example, the Central Market CBD pays for guides who help lost tourists and directs street people to needed services. The Yerba Buena CBD, which was launched in June, supports guides who point out museums and cultural sites around Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and works on cleaning up graffiti. According to Kaplan, an early focus of the Urban Innovation CBD is likely to be planting sidewalk vegetation, cleaning streets, and pushing for investment.

Urban Innovation's next step will be to adopt a draft management plan and outline exact district boundaries. Under a five step process, a survey of property owners within the district boundaries will be taken. Under step three, at least 30 percent of district property owners must agree to proceed. If they do, then step four is to distribute a formal ballot. If 50 percent plus one of the affected

property owners approve the plan it's then sent to the Board of Supervisors for a final decision.

Urban Innovation's proposed CBD would give more voting weight to larger properties, according to Sofis. She added that the weighting could be determined in different ways, but will be decided by how

the special tax formula is calculated. "In our CBD area... the most fair assessment will be based on simple leasable square footage," she said. "But bottom line, the basic idea is that those who stand to benefit more both pay more and also must have a more substantial weighting in the vote."

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– Janet J.



Shop Local

Photographs by Emmanuel Schnetzler

Collage

Chez Mama



From left: Nettemias Juarez and Philippe Spitalier



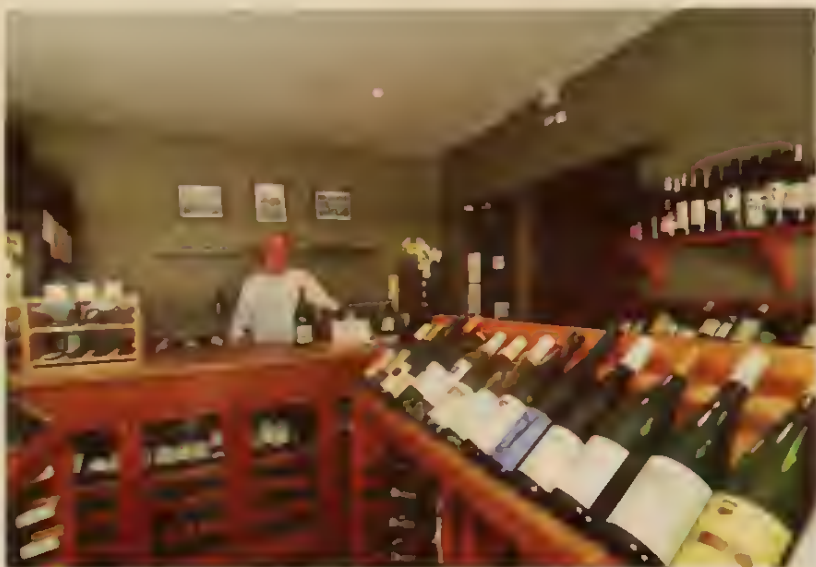
Delisa Sage (owner).

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From left: Alma Moguel, Juan Manuel Venegas, Leslie Goldberg (owner), and Aimee Graham

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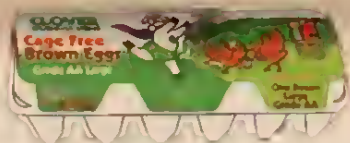
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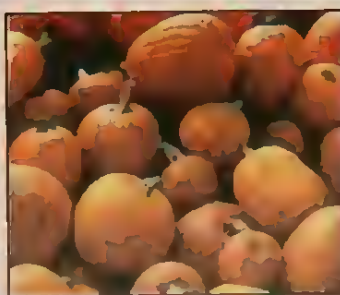


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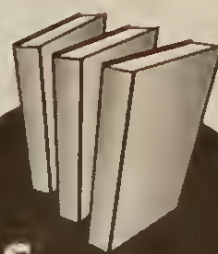
Potrero Hill - 20th Street Festival
Visit the Good Life Pumpkin Patch
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We have the friendliest pumpkins on Potrero Hill
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The Potrero Branch Library renovation is progressing, with many of its new features now visible. Photographs by Peter Linenthal.

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Tuesday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday 12 noon - 8 pm
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LIBRARY NEWS

Abby Bridge, Potrero Branch Librarian
Jasmin Springer, Mission Bay Branch Children's Librarian

Interim Services during Potrero Branch closure

Bookmobile service is available on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the north side of 1502 Mariposa Street, adjacent to the Jackson Park Recreation Center building. Bookmobile services include borrowing, returning, reserving or picking up materials, and obtaining or renewing a library card.

October Potrero Hill Children's Programs

Family Storytime, featuring stories, songs and rhymes. For children birth to five years old and their caregiver. Thursdays, October 1, 8, 22, and 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Participate in a national reading of Eric Carle's, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. For children birth to five years old and their caregivers. October 8, 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with songs from Latin America featuring Orgullo Bilingue. For children birth to five years old and their caregivers. October 15, 10:30 a.m.

All programs are held at St. Teresa's Community Hall, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street. Information: <http://potrerolibrarysfpl.blogspot.com>.

Mission Bay Library

The Mission Bay Library is located at 960 Fourth Street, at Berry, near AT&T Park. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Muni N and T lines are a block away, at Fourth and King streets, and street parking is on Channel Street, also a block away. Information: 355.2838; <http://missionbaylibrary.blogspot.com>.

October Mission Bay's Programs

Baby Rhyme Time. Interactive music, rhymes, bounces, books, and more for infants to 24 months and their caregivers. Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:15 a.m.

Toddler Tales. Music, movement, rhymes, books and more for 18 to 36 months and their caregivers. Fridays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 4:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytimes. Stories, songs, rhymes and more for children ages three to five. Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 4:30 p.m.

Woody Guthrie and the Great American Folksong, presented by Tim Holt. Sing along with old-time gospel, depression-era, and songs about pioneering trips across the country. Holt is a frequent contributor to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. October 7, 6 p.m.

Home Preparedness in Earthquake Country. Matt Springer, Associate Professor of Medicine, will talk about precautions that can be taken to lessen the damage from an earthquake at home and work. His one hour presentation includes photographs of preparations in his own home, and suggested measures ranging from simple to complex to prepare for the next temblor. Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m.

Children's Yoga. Yoga instructor Tatjana Rmus will lead a class for children ages three to five and their caregivers. Bring a mat or towel. Wednesday, October 21, 5:30 p.m.

Halloween Crafts with Sophie. A fun-filled craft program for children of all ages. Celebrate Halloween with ghoulish creativity! October 28, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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Publisher's View

Continued from Page 2

sector economic activity. Without such activity freshly trained San Franciscans this year and next will still be unemployed when federal funds run out.

Large-scale job creation programs are best left to the federal government, which has the resources – and borrowing capacity – to support such efforts. However, the City and County of San Francisco can, and does, play a role in addressing chronic unemployment. Right now the City is in a poor position to undertake expansive new growth in direct government employment, with arguably too many civil servants as it is. Instead, we need to look to the private sector, and particularly small businesses, to create jobs in our neighborhoods. We can do this by helping merchants lower their operating costs, through, for example, well-crafted publicly sponsored energy, water, and transportation conservation programs. Supporting resource-saving efforts helps the environment, and, since most of a dollar saved by a small business is likely to go back into the local economy, spurs job growth in our communities. And if conservation efforts are undertaken by local enterprises and linked with green job training programs, the circle of

goodness is completed.

Small business, and household, economic activity can also be encouraged by enabling families and businesses to participate in emerging carbon markets, thereby receiving the same economic opportunities as large polluters, as proposed by San Francisco Community Power, www.sfpower.org. The City could actively engage in public-private partnerships that provide long-term value for neighborhoods, such as creating a family recreation center, or supporting the development of a locally-owned grocery, or energy efficient appliance store, in Bayview. And, to counter developers' refrain that they can't find suitable candidates from the neighborhood to fill construction and other jobs, Bayview and Visitacion Valley hiring halls should be organized, and be directly linked with job training programs and local employers.

More needs to be done to address chronic joblessness. Better schools and after school programs and youth and low-skilled worker employment initiatives, to name two. Over the long term jobs can best be created by self-reinforcing clusters of neighborhood-based businesses that are selling products people want to buy. Well-crafted City initiatives, that leverage state and federal monies, can serve as essential catalysts for sustainable employment growth that reaches our most vulnerable communities.

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20th St.

Continued from Front Page

two decades. Flo's Hair Styling opened in 1952, and owner Florindo Cimino has lived on Potrero Hill his entire life. "It's the prime place to be, in the thick of everything," said Christine Doud of Zephyr Real Estate of her 20th Street location. As the only real estate office on Potrero Hill, Zephyr's glossy photographs of their latest real estate listings often attract passersby. According to Zeidman, the street's easy parking and convenient location for families and people walking their dogs is a plus.

To many Hill residents 20th Street has seemed even quieter than usual in recent months, in part due to the Great Recession. "Five years ago there were a lot of people working down at the bottom of the hill and coming up here for lunch, but that sort of traffic has leveled off." Allan Ransley, co-owner of Jay's Deli, noted, "People are not spending money. They are saving more and brown-bagging it. Everything is down." Billy's Dry Cleaners, Dave's Food Store and All States Best Food have also experienced fewer customers over the past year.

Not everyone on the block is feeling the pinch, though. Zephyr Real Estate and San Francisco Natural Medicine have both seen growth this year, in part driven by non-Hill residents. "I have noticed more people that are not from the neighborhood," said Doud. And Connie Kullberg, co-owner of Pinkies Nail Salon, is optimistic

about the future. She believes a pedicure represents good value even in an era of tighter budgets.

Although demand for manicures may be steady, competition for the community's hands and feet has become fierce. In addition to Pinkies and La Fleur, the new hair and nail salon located down the street, there are five other nail salons in the neighborhood. According to Kullberg competition exists in all neighborhoods, which compels Pinkies to "be better."

The Good Life Grocery has also had to face down a sizable competitor: Whole Foods. "We are pretty tenacious. We are not going to go away and we look forward to staying here for a long time," Zeidman said. Other merchants, like Ling Chu, of Billy's Dry Cleaners and Sal Saleh, from Dave's Food Store, have also been affected in the wake of Whole Foods' opening, which has sparked a partial revitalization of the 17th Street corridor. Dave's has experienced a 25 percent drop in business since 2007 – when Whole Food's opened – and Saleh is struggling to pay his operating expenses. "I am doing very badly and I think we need more support from the neighborhood," he said. The temporary closure of Jay's Deli last month has added to the anxiety about the shopping district's economic vitality.

Keith Goldstein, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses (PHAMB) president, thinks that 20th Street is quiet because of the strip's small number of enterprises. He also believes that

the street changed after Klein's Deli closed, with a number of Hill residents continuing to hold a grudge against its replacement, Jay's Deli, which Goldstein feels is a shame. "In the last year with the library and Michael Gary's closing, it has been difficult," said Zeidman. "It has slowed down. We don't have the foot traffic during the daytime that we used to. I am counting on the library reopening helping." Michele Hangee-Bauer, who serves as San Francisco Natural Medicine's office manager, agrees that pedestrian traffic is down due to the library's reconstruction. According to Hangee-Bauer, youngsters and their parents and guardians used to flock there for story time and special events. Along the way they'd often grabbed a cup of coffee, sandwich or gallon of milk.

Recent street construction may also have played a role in dampening economic activity. "I think last summer, when they dug up the entire hill for three months, people stopped driving up the hill," Ransley said. Kal Ghanma of All States agreed that the construction decreased parking, which he thinks deterred customers.

Both Goldstein and Zeidman noted that they'd like to see the empty storefronts on the street opened for new businesses, but said that the longstanding property owners are reticent to do so. "It has always bothered me," Zeidman said, adding, "I think about what taxes our company generates for the City and I don't know why they allow these empty storefronts to exist given the budget shortfall. There is

no incentive for them to do anything. They can sit on it because they don't have significant property taxes." Pinkies clients would like to see more banks and drugstores in the area, according to Kullberg. Hangee-Bauer thinks that the corridor could benefit from more transit.

Other San Francisco main streets are often operated under business improvement districts, with a current push to create such a zone along the Central Waterfront and Showplace Square. Such districts raise money through additional fees on property owners to provide improvement and maintenance services, like street cleaning and security, or to help with marketing. But there's little interest in establishing one along 20th Street, according to Goldstein.

Despite the challenges most 20th Street businesses are optimistic about the future. They keep an eye out for one another when crime escalates, and keep tabs on each other's bottom line. Most are PHAMB members, and look to the association for help with marketing and networking. PHAMB co-hosts the annual Potrero Hill Festival with the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (Nabe), which will be held on 20th Street this year rather than in front of the Nabe. "We moved it down to 20th Street to bring more attention to the street and to make people aware that there is life beyond 18th Street," Goldstein explained.

For his part Cimino, who has lived through more than one economic downturn, remains steady in his view from the top of the hill. "I love it. Everything is fine," he said.



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10TH ANNUAL

1970s, Hazel Smith & Family at the Nabe

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Kids on the Block

By Stacey Bartlett



Eleanor Tru Thomas, age four and a half, lost her first tooth on September 2. The tooth fairy left a trail of fairy dust footprints from the window to her pillow, a golden token for the carousel at the San Francisco Zoo, a few other treats and, in reply to Eleanor's dictated note asking what she looks like, a self-portrait. Another tooth is loose; it looks like Eleanor will be sporting a jack-o-lantern smile on Halloween! Mama Jennifer and Papa Sean can't believe how big you're getting, Els!



Zach Bradford reports: "My sister Isla and I have started school in Bocas Del Toro, Panama. There are 26 students in our school, and they are from pre-school to fourth grade. The kids are from all over the world, including Panama, Germany, Australia and the US. This month we are learning about the sea; next month we will learn about space and the month of November we learn about Panama. We have a class pet, a baby sloth who fell out of a tree and her mommy could not be located. She sleeps on a hammock in the corner of our classroom."



Last month Sara Estrella Findling Moss transferred from Alvarado Elementary School to Brandeis Hillel Day School, where she's in the third grade.



Bridget Kenna Procter turns one on October 13th. Sarah and Steven Procter will be joined by Bridget's grandma and grandpa, who will be visiting from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to celebrate.

Happy birthday Princess Fae! Love Mommy, Daddy and Noah.



Lifelong Potrero Hill Resident, Tristan Schnetzler, turns nine on October 30th. Tristan swims like a fish at the University of California, San Francisco, Mission Bay pool, and loves running in the neighborhood. Right now he's taking care of two hermit crabs, lots of catfish, and the family dog, Pastis, who turns 12 in early-October, and who has a series of trophies from Farley's pet parades.

Charlie George Kotarba celebrated his second birthday on September 27th with a Superman party.



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The NEW 2010 Neighborhood Business Directory for Potrero Hill and Dogpatch will be available October 15th.

It sports a stunning new cover, with photos featuring ten of our member businesses.

Can you identify all ten?
Email your guess to:
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2010 Cover Design: Janet Carpineth
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Check your mailbox, or pick up a new Directory at one of our local merchants, including:
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The entry with the most correct answers will win a \$100 gift certificate to one of our member restaurants. If multiple entries correctly identify all ten, the winner will be selected by random drawing. One entry per person. Entries must be submitted by Wednesday, November 18th. Winner and correct answers will be identified in the December issue of the Potrero View.

Join us for our monthly general membership meeting:
2nd Tuesday, 10:00 AM at Goat Hill Pizza
Next meeting: October 13, 2009

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October 2009

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Art: Valet by Branden Koch

Ping Pong Gallery presents Koch's first solo exhibition with the gallery. The eight new oil paintings confront contemporary trends and dogmas of interpretation. 6 to 9 p.m., 1240 22nd Street. Information: pingponggallery.com.

October 9

Art: Reception for Maureen Shields

Join Farley's artist of the month, Maureen Shields, and listen to live music by the Hiwatters, featuring classic surf tunes. 7 p.m., Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

October 10

Comedy: Farley's Open Mic

Hosted by Liz Grant, comedy night showcases veteran San Franciscan comics. 7:30 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

October 10 & 17

Film: Shadow & Light: The Life and Art of Elaine Badgley-Arnoux

Shadow & Light, a documentary directed by Potrero Hill resident William Farley, portrays an outsider artist who defies stereotypes of gender, culture and age. *Miracle in A Box: A Piano Reborn*, directed by John Korty, will also be shown. Korty's film showcases a personal journey during the restoration of a Steinway piano. 3 p.m. on October 10; 2:30 p.m. on October 17. Tickets: \$12.50; CFI Members, \$10. CinéArts @ Sequoia, 25 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley. Information: mvff.com; 877.874.MVFF.

October 13

Community: Bio-diesel Manufacturing at Pier 92

The Port will hold a community meeting to discuss Darling International's proposal to manufacture bio-diesel at Pier 92, including a discussion of the required building and fire department permits. 6 p.m. Information: Rich Berman, 274.0276.

October 16 through November 7

Art: Altars for the Spirits - Offerings for the Living

A Day of the Dead exhibit produced by SOMArts Cultural Center and co-sponsored by Galeria de la Raza and Casa Bonampak, featuring altars and installations that honor the dead and provide offerings to the living through lessons, reminders and knowledge from the deceased. Tuesday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free. SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street. Information: somarts.org.

October 16

Specialty Foods: Roll Out the Barrels WhiskyFest

Are you a budding whisky enthusiast or a long-time connoisseur? Check-out America's largest whisky celebration, featuring more than 200 of the world's rarest and most expensive whiskies for sampling. Master blenders and distillery

managers will explain their production techniques and provide tips on tasting and purchasing. Food and a charity bottle auction are part of the festivities. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. \$95; VIP admission \$150. San Francisco Marriott, 55 Fourth Street. Information: maltadvocate.com/whickeyfest-sf.asp.

October 17

Community: Potrero Hill Festival

The Potrero Hill Festival returns with a full day of fun, food, music and community activities, beginning with the traditional New Orleans Jazz Brunch at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. California Culinary Academy students will be serving a gourmet breakfast to the sounds of The Apollo Jazz Group. The festival continues with a street fair along 20th Street between Missouri and Arkansas. Shuttle buses will be available to take participants from the Neighborhood House to the street fair, where local merchants will display their wares, arts and crafts. A stage featuring Mestizo, the Bobbie Webb Smooth Blues Band and local performers will provide musical entertainment. The Kid Zone will feature a puppet show, petting zoo, dunk tank, arts and crafts and more. Brunch, \$10, 9 to 11 a.m., 953 De Haro Street. Festival, free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 20th Street at Connecticut. Information: festival@potrerohill.biz.

Community: Rebuild Together Benefit Event

Rebuilding Together San Francisco celebrates 20 Years with "Changing Neighborhoods, Changing Lives." The benefit will include live music from The Cheese Balls, a hosted bar, dancing, silent auction, and local neighborhood cuisine, plus a special performance by the San Francisco Circus Center. 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets: \$125. San Francisco Design Center Galleria, 101 Henry Adams Street. Information: rebuildingtogethersf.org

October 17 & 18

Photography: San Francisco Days, San Francisco Nights

Photographers and long-time Potrero Hill residents Greta and Manu Schnetzler will present their photographic work during San Francisco Open Studios as part of the Studio Nocturne group at Fort Mason. The exhibit will showcase 10 photographers with a variety of work, including night photography. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fort Mason, Landmark Building D, Fleet Room. Information: studionocturne2009.com. Greta and Manu's work will also be included in the ArtSpan SF Open Studios Group Show at SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan Street, opening October 4 and continuing through the end of the month.

October 24

Community: Potrero Hill History Night

The 10th annual Potrero Hill History Night will kick off with a barbeque and performance by The Apollo Jazz Group, followed by the International Studies Academy (ISA) Community Choir and interviews of two longtime local residents, Renee Strong and George

Bushneff. Sponsored by the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses and the Potrero Hill Archives Project, all earnings will be donated to the ISA's student travel program. 5:30 p.m. for food, \$6; 7 to 9 p.m. for the rest of the program, free. ISA, 655 De Haro Street. Information: 863.0784.

Community: Farley's 19th Annual Pet Parade

Allow your four footed friends to have their own Halloween celebration, or come check out the ensembles! The pet parade festivities include Christopher Irion's photo booth, opening at 11 a.m., live music and a costume contest. Parade begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of 18th and Arkansas streets. Information: farleyscoffee.com.

October 28 thru November 8

Theatre: Ghosts of the River

Written by Octavio Solis and produced by Shadow Light Productions, *Ghosts of the River* tells the stories of those who have encountered the Rio Grande throughout time, including Mexican Revolution refugees fleeing from violence and families abandoned by coyotes. The bilingual play has Spanish/English translation provided through subtitles. Wednesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets: \$5 to \$35. Brava Theatre Center, 2781 24th Street. Information: shadowlightghosts.org.

October 30

Halloween: Third Annual Jack O'Lantern Walk

Potrero Hillians are invited to bring a carved pumpkin or two, along with a battery operated tea light, if possible. Costumes are welcome, though no candy. Hot apple cider, popcorn and cookies will be provided. Drop off 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; walk 6 to 8 p.m., Potrero Hill Community Garden, 20th and San Bruno Streets.

October 31

Family: Halloween Costume Contest, Pre-Party and Parade

Axis Café hosts the annual Potrero Hill Halloween party, followed by a parade up to 18th Street. The pre-parade festivities will be held at Axis Cafe, with a costume contest, bounce house, games and prizes. Guards will be on hand to help with traffic crossing on 16th Street. Doors open 5:30 p.m. 1201 8th Street. Information: axis-café.com.

October 31 & November 1

Art: Hunters Point Shipyard Open Studios

More than 150 artists will show and sell their fine art and crafts, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, and more. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. Hunters Point Shipyard, Building 101. Information: shipyardartists.com.

November 1

Art: Shipyard Trust for the Arts Auction

The Annual Art Auction benefiting Shipyard Trust for the Arts (STAR) will raise funds to support the Artist in Residence Program, shipyard artist events and arts programs in Bayview-Hunters Point. Bid on a wide range of media, including painting, printmaking, watercolor, jewelry, sculpture, photography and wearable art, while enjoying music and refreshments. 5 p.m. \$10 donation for bidding. Hunters Point Shipyard, Building 101, 2nd floor, Gallery 101 Information: www.shipyardtrust.org.



Last Year's Jack-O'Lantern Walk. Photos by Tricia Lawrence.

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Hill Filmmaker William Farley Premieres *Shadows & Light: The Life & Art of Elaine Badgley Arnoux* at Mill Valley Film Festival

By Lori Higa



Director-filmmaker William Farley. Photograph courtesy of William Farley.

Inside Farley's café, indie filmmaker William Farley, who isn't related to the enterprise in which he sits, speaks excitedly, with an accent betraying his native south Boston Irish roots, about his most recent film. *Shadows & Light* is a poignant tribute to 82-year-old artist and teacher Elaine Badgley Arnoux, known for her incisive portraits of San Franciscans, both the famous and ordinary, and for her darker, passionate, Goya-esque paintings and sculptures that depict some of the most tragic episodes of human evil and social injustice of modern times.

Described as an "experimentalist," Farley is known for his sly humor, social critiques, and collaborations with the likes of David Byrne, the Kronos Quartet, and local performance art luminaries George Coates, among many others. His films have won awards at prestigious film festivals around the world, from Sundance to Cannes, Berlin to New York. Another of Farley's noteworthy recent films is his shoot of playwright-actor John O'Keefe's solo performance of Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*, taped at the Mission's Marsh Theater. Farley's lived on the Hill for nearly a decade, first landing in San Francisco in 1969 as a merchant seaman, jumping ship to stay in a City that "bewitched" him.

"This is a film of which I'm really proud," said Farley. "Elaine is such a courageous person...she had an abusive childhood, her father was a predator. I wanted to honor her

struggle and tenacity, the way she's used art and portraiture to give meaning to her life."

That life started out idyllically in rural Oklahoma growing up with her grandparents. "I was very old when I was young and I wasn't young until I was old," said Badgley Arnoux, an ironic and revealing comment, considering what turned out to be a tumultuous life. Farley's film poetically captures Badgley Arnoux's 70-year evolution from a young, apolitical artist in the 1930s to one with a moving and politically aware body of work that grapples with subjects ranging from homelessness to the Holocaust and Abu Ghraib. To note the inauguration of Mayor Frank Jordan in 1992, Badgley Arnoux and her homeless shelter neighbors wheeled shopping carts topped with canvasses, evoking pioneers crossing the prairies in covered wagons, in a protest-procession to City Hall, where a show of her portraits of the people of San Francisco hung in the galleries.

Next up for Farley is an experimental hybrid biographical narrative feature, *The 5:10 To Cooperstown*, a story based on his childhood growing up with an alcoholic father who inadvertently sets fire to things. The film is inter-cut with scenes from past works, including a 1982 performance by the then-unknown Whoopi Goldberg from Farley's *Citizen: I'm Not Losing My Mind, I'm Giving It Away*.

For more information, including film show times and places, visit www.farleyfilm.com.

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Brief Encounter Now Boarding at American Conservatory Theater

By Jim Van Buskirk

The show begins even before the curtain goes up on *Brief Encounter*. The cast, costumed as British movie ushers, is spotted in the boxes singing pre-war songs like "Sweet Georgia Brown." The buskers descend into the orchestra and move through the theatre singing music hall songs, interacting with audience members as they take their seats. An entertaining atmosphere is established before the players take to the stage to announce the piece.

The American Conservatory Theater has been transformed into the Palladium Cinema as the audience watches the projected titles of Kneehigh Theatre's production of Noël Coward's *Brief Encounter*. With an imaginative mix of cinematic and theatrical magic, Emma Rice has recreated David Lean's 1945 film version – which starred Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard – with a screenplay by Sir Noël based on his original 1935 short play *Still Life*.

Familiarity with the classic film adds to the fun, but isn't necessary to enjoy this theatrical delight. Onscreen we see first the exterior, then the living room, of Laura's suburban home in 1938. Laura is sitting in the front row of the theatre with Alec, who professes his love to her. She confesses that she feels the same, even as she insists that they must be sensible and not endanger their comfortable lives and respective marriages. In the projection onstage Laura's husband, Fred, stands by two empty armchairs calling out to his wife. After hesitating, Laura enters the screen and appears in one of the armchairs. The image of a train rushes by and we're suddenly in the Milford Junction train station tearoom.

Much of the action takes place in the tearoom as Beryl flirts with station hand Stanley instead of tending to her duties as her boss, Myrtle, pretends to rebuff the advances of ticket inspector Albert. Laura gets a piece of grit lodged in her eye, and

Alec, a doctor, removes it for her. After thanks and goodbyes, Stanley reenters to serenade Beryl with Coward's 1930 "Any Little Fish". This is the first of many musical interludes in which vintage Coward songs are used to comment on the action. Better known numbers like "Mad about the Boy," "A Room with a View" and "World Weary" are juxtaposed with more obscure numbers, such as "Alice is at it Again," "Go Slow, Johnny," and "Bora Bora."

Projected menus quickly establish settings of the tearoom, the Kardomah restaurant and other venues. The theatrical effects are convincingly conceived and executed, as actors step into and out of projections, supported by top-notch lighting, costumes, performances, sound effects and staging. The small ensemble cast is uniformly excellent, squeezing every bit of comedy and pathos from each scene. Hannah Yelland and Milo Twomey embody the serious star-crossed lovers, while Beryl and Myrtle are comically played by Beverly Rudd and Annette McLaughlin. Their respective suitors are Stuart McLoughlin, as Stanley, and Joseph Alessi, as Albert. Alessi also appears as Laura's husband, Fred, and Alec's friend, Stephen.

ACT is to be applauded for launching its 2009/10 season with the runaway U.K. hit. The production also celebrates the 100th anniversary of the ornate theater, which was previously known as the Columbia and the Geary, a movie house that hosted the world premiere of Orson Welle's *Citizen Kane* and the Northern California premiere of Disney's *Fantasia*.

As entertaining as the proceedings are it seems churlish to ask why reinterpret or reenact this romantic film in 2009. Surely not to mock its depictions of pre-war austerity and morality in Britain. This nagging question aside, run, walk or take the MUNI to enjoy *Brief Encounter* before October 11, when it's scheduled to depart from Track 15.

Molly's Daughter Explores What Women Really Want

By Lori Higa

Potrero Hill activist, author and Jungian psychotherapist's poignant memoir offers an intimate portrait of three generations of San Francisco women



Providing historical context and details she researched over nine years, the just turned 80-year-old Margaret Frings Keyes, a Wisconsin Street resident, takes readers on a gripping journey that traces her life from Butte, Montana to San Francisco. In spare, Hemingwayesque prose Keyes recounts the lives of her grandmother, mother and self as if they're vivid characters in a page-turning thriller, with a skillful fiction writer's voice that belies her credentials as author of numerous psychology books on subjects ranging from enneagrams to art therapy.

The memoir begins in the turn-of-the-century mines of Butte, Montana, where her maternal grandfather fights a union battle against Anaconda Copper, and loses his life. Keyes then treats us to a tour of Depression- and Prohibition-era San Francisco: the 1934 labor union strike, in which her father was a participant; growing up working class in the Irish-Catholic Sunset district; getting accepted to the exclusive Notre Dame des Victoires high school; family members who participated in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish civil war; marriage, divorce; her involvement in the personal empowerment movement; and eventual landings in Potrero Hill and Muir Beach.

Along the way, Keyes – the only person in the memoir with an alias, "Lizby," short for Elizabeth,

after her maternal grandmother – grows up, the sole daughter to two younger brothers in a working class family, filled with a nagging sense that something's not right; a feeling exacerbated by an emotionally volatile mother, Molly, who kept a secret. It was only after her mother's death that Lizby learned from her grandmother that she was the child of her mother's affair with a charismatic young Jewish doctor who offered abortion rather than marriage on learning of Molly's pregnancy.

Molly was a complex cauldron of emotion, swinging from feelings of love and pride to rage. She eventually married Hans Frings, a bright and hardworking, but unaffectionate, German International Longshore and Warehouse Union member, around whom Lizby always felt a sense of tension.

The most shocking revelation of Keyes' memoir is what Lizby learns much later in life: that her biological father committed suicide in a downtown San Francisco hotel room, years after his proper society marriage to a Jewess concert musician. There's sense of sadness that imbues this segment of the memoir. As readers, we're allowed the luxury of mourning those losses with hindsight that Keyes herself could not.

Continued on Page 24

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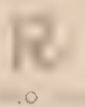
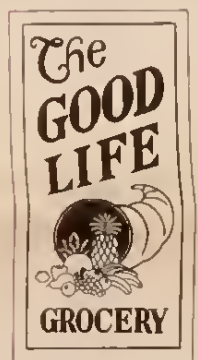
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A Tour of Potrero Terrace

By Tom Donald

It was with no small bit of trepidation that I got out of my car in front of the San Francisco Police Department substation located in the Potrero Terrace housing complex. I'd arranged to do a walk around with some officers assigned to the complex's detail. They were a few minutes late, and as I stood on Connecticut Street, I couldn't ignore the cars driving by slowly and repeatedly, along with long looks from a couple of young men across the street. In retrospect, that seemed a reasonable reaction. What was a middle-aged guy in a ball cap doing in front of the empty cop shop, anyway?

I was touring the complex in an attempt to find answers to questions nearly all Potrero Hill residents have asked themselves at one time or another: What's the story with those long, institutional buildings on the Hill's south slope? Why are so many of us afraid to drive through that neighborhood, let alone walk down one of its sunny streets? Is that decaying collection of barracks-style apartments as drug- and violence-ridden as rumors suggest? Who lives there? And what do the officers deal with as they patrol the area every day?

I was warmly greeted by Officer Tim Fowlie as he and his three colleagues got out of their police car and entered the Spartan substation. Quick introductions were exchanged, and then we hustled up the hill to their first call of the day. A woman had been assaulted by her live-in boyfriend, who then fled by jumping out the window. No small feat, given that the couple live on the unit's second floor. The man was apparently familiar to the officers through previous contacts, and there were indications that this was not the first time she'd been a victim of domestic violence. Officers Alex Rodatos and Jeff Rosenberg talked to the woman patiently and took her information, promising to look for the miscreant.

I chatted with Officers Fowlie and George Ferraez outside the woman's apartment. They were candid in their assessment of life in the complex. Just as most people would suspect, it's exceedingly challenging, though things have improved considerably in the last few years. The San Francisco Housing Authority has moved more quickly to evict troublemakers and drug dealers, thereby reducing criminal activity. But as Officer Fowlie observed, "When you move in, your place is going to be broken into within a month. It happens to everyone and it's an expected



Officers Rodatos, Fowlie, Ferraez and Rosenberg of the SFPD Potrero Terrace detail.

occurrence." As Hill residents can attest, gunshots are heard less frequently these days, but it's not unusual to hear the sound of AKs and Glocks going off, especially at night. Drugs are ubiquitous, and strong-arm robberies are commonplace.

Beyond that, the "snitch" culture tends to subvert apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators, because witnesses are often unwilling to come forward and testify. That's understandable, because retaliation is an all-too-real occurrence here. Or the charges are dropped soon after the arrestees arrive downtown. As Officer Ferraez told me, "We find ourselves dealing with the same people, time after time. It's frustrating because as street cops, we know the area, we know what's going on. We're here every day, and to see guys walk around who we know are guilty is disheartening."

It's not all bad at Potrero Terrace, though. There's a steady stream of new residents, with the complex becoming a destination for families moving from Richmond and Oakland. The development is becoming more diverse, as Asian-American and Hispanic families move in. And both the Terrace and the Annex are scheduled to be redeveloped over the next several years, with final plans set to be created by the end of 2009.

While Officers Rodatos and Rosenberg drove around the facility, Officers Fowlie, Ferraez and I took a walk around the hilly grounds. Along the way, several residents acknowledged us with smiles, and some offered greetings. "Hey, how you doin'?" "What's up, young man?" Both officers emphasized that the good people in Potrero Terrace far outnumber the "bad apples," as Officer Ferraez termed the criminal element.

All of the officers have had opportunities to transfer elsewhere in the department. But to Officer Fowlie, walking a beat in Potrero Terrace represents "a chance to make a difference, to leave a place a little

better than I found it." It sounded like a cliché, but when he looks you in the eye and tells you that's why he goes to work every day, you believe him.

We reached the top of the hill near the playground and stopped for a moment. The view was breathtaking. It was a beautiful day and the City looked like a jewel box in the sun. It was Potrero Hill in all its glory. But suddenly the radio crackled, and it was time to head back to the substation. Once there, the officers and I shook hands and said our goodbyes. I got into my car, and headed to my South of Market home. Idly, I set the trip odometer. The distance came to less than two miles, more than most Hill residents, but close enough.

Will I return to Potrero Terrace? Perhaps. It might not take its place among Farley's, Moshi Moshi and my other regular stops on the Hill, but on a sunny day, that could be one helluva bike ride down Connecticut Street to Cesar Chavez.

Tom Donald is a film director who lives with his wife Mitzi Ngim on the outer reaches of Potrero Hill.



Molly's Daughter

Continued from Page 22

The last quarter of the memoir goes by swiftly, as Keyes describes several decades of her life via poetic flashbacks. We learn about her development and life work as a psychotherapist; her involvement in early LSD experimentation and with the giants of the new psychology movement, including Synanon, Eric Berne of transactional analysis fame, Fritz Perls and other psychiatrist-mentors based in Big Sur's Esalen; her love affairs with a gay man and a vibrant, handsome mathematician, who tragically died of heart surgery in the prime of his life. Lizby chooses to end her loveless marriage to a tax attorney, ironically after publishing a popular book called *Staying Married*, for which she endured a high exposure, emotionally wrenching publicity tour.

Perhaps the most affecting aspect of *Molly's Daughter* is Keyes' courage in embarking on what for many would be the hardest journey of their lives: delving deeply into self, facing personal demons, achieving growth and understanding in the process. In the act of writing her life story, Keyes is able to heal, and create the person she aspires to be, rather than existing as a prisoner of suffocating family secrets. Not only has Keyes written a rich, insightful book, she does a yeoman's job mining her own working-class genealogy, connecting the dots to our nation's current plunge into economic chaos, anti-union politics, joblessness, corporate greed and the need for universal health care.

Today, Keyes is focused on two qualities that are her signposts to living life authentically, and transformatively. "For me, the essential aspects of human consciousness are humor – the creativity of seeing wild interconnections – and empathy – our sense of caring for each other and our experiences."

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Going to War

By David Matsuda



David Matsuda in Iraq

When Lieutenant General Charles Jacoby, commanding general for Multi-National Corps-Iraq, asked me to come to Iraq, he wanted me to tell him what I thought would be the greatest challenge. "Sir, in every deployment you have to know your enemy. This time it's going to be more important to know your ally," I replied.

I joined the Human Terrain Team program, which embedded anthropologists with combat brigades in Iraq to help tactical field commanders understand local cultures. In 2006 and 2007, I was deployed to Sadr City and the Sunni Triangle region, assisting in more than 100 engagements. Early in the war American advisors would suggest to their Iraqi counterparts that they improve their capabilities. What they didn't realize was that Iraqis took that advice as a promise from U.S. forces to improve their capabilities for them. When that didn't happen, the Iraqis felt that U.S. forces had made false promises. "What is better to do, is say 'Sir, if you could do three things to do to solve your problem what would they be,'" I suggested. "And at the end you say, 'Great, how can I support you?'"

During my first deployment I perceived a general mistrust among Iraqi Security Forces. But because of consistent leadership from Jacoby and his predecessors, there's been a profound change toward mutual trust and cooperation. "The Iraqis are willing to listen to what we say,

maybe more importantly we are going to listen to what they have to say, not always trying to bend them to the way we think an army should run," Jacoby said. "There is a tremendous amount of trust at the command level."

Cultural differences have led to a difference in how the Iraqi Army is structured compared to the U.S. military. In the U.S. military officers are empowered to make decisions on the battlefield. However, the Iraqi Army is driven by officers at the top. This caused problems when company commanders tried to plan operations with their counterparts following the Security Agreement. Sometimes the result was a severe reprimand for the Iraqi commander and a Security Agreement violation for the U.S. commander.

It's imperative to recognize that Iraq is a rank-conscious society driven by honor and shame. In one meeting I attended between an Iraqi general and American colonel, the general's aide was full of good ideas. When the colonel told the general he should listen to his aide, he offended the general. While the general acknowledged that the ideas were good, he refused to implement them. We now realize you may not have to speak the language, but if you can behave customarily toward Iraqis, in ways that give them honor and respect, you can go a long way.

Potrero Hill resident Dave Matsuda is deployed in Iraq, and sends back monthly dispatches about his experiences.

Police Blotter

September 12, 6:30 p.m., Robbery, Vehicle for Hire, with a Knife, Turner and Missouri streets: A cab driver was robbed after he was hailed by a fare who had the driver go to various locations, ending up with a stop in Potrero Hill. The suspect (fare) produced a knife from the back seat of the taxi, put it to the victim's face and demanded all of his money. The victim gave the suspect the money. The suspect told the victim to leave or he'd slit his throat. The victim complied, left the area and called for police. The victim wasn't injured during the robbery. The suspect wasn't located.

September 10, 5:30 a.m., Robbery with a Gun, 20th and Tennessee: A victim was robbed of her laptop, purse, cell phone and earphones by a gun toting suspect, who told her, "give me your laptop, or I will shoot you." The victim told officers that she didn't see the gun, but that she was in fear for her life. The suspect fled in a car after the robbery. Officers did not locate the suspect or the victim's items. The victim was not injured during the robbery.

September 10, 2:28 a.m., Receiving Stolen Property, Possession of Burglary Tools, 19th and Minnesota: Officers Skaug, Guzman and Cowhig were in the area of Minnesota Street when they observed a man walking his dog in the park, which was closed. The officers detained the subject, and discovered a warrant for his arrest. The officers transported the suspect to Bayview Station, where a preliminary investigation took place. Officer Lee, the Station Keeper, questioned the suspect regarding the fact that he lived on the other side of town, but was walking his dog in a park, in a district, far from his home. The suspect told Officer Lee that he had a U-Haul van parked on Minnesota Street, which officers found the key for, as well as several burglary tools, in his jacket. Officers responded to the U-Haul truck, and located a bevy of stolen property, including credit and identification cards in numerous people's names. The officers investigated further and found that numerous burglaries and thefts had taken place in various parts of the City and that the IDs, credit and stolen property were linked to these incidents.

September 9, 4:35 a.m., Conspiracy, Vehicle Burglary, Possession of Burglary Tools, Pennsylvania and Mariposa: Officers Cahill, Gummo and Dizon were in the area of Minnesota and 19th streets investigating auto burglaries. The officers saw two subjects who were walking in the area, wiping the condensation off of car windows and looking inside the cars, utilizing a flashlight. The officers watched as the subjects did this to several parked cars. The officers detained the subjects and confiscated the burglary tools on them. After a brief investigation, one of the suspects confessed to the officers. Both suspects were placed under arrest and transported to Bayview station.

September 5, 1:45 a.m., Aggravated Assault with a Gun, with Force, 1:54 a.m., Indiana and 19th: While at Bayview Station, Officer Gritsch received information that a person had been shot at a night club in the Bayview District. The officers responded to the club and located a victim, who'd been grazed by a stray bullet. The officers called for a medic to treat the victim. The officers spoke with the victim, who stated that there were fights going on in the club and outside the club, when shots rang out. The officers located a second victim, who stated that he was jumped by an unknown subject and that he fought back until the subject left the area. The medic also tended to this victim's non-life threatening injuries. Moments later, Officer Talusan located a gun and casings, which he seized. The officers ran the gun and discovered it was stolen.

September 2, 10:54 p.m., Malicious Mischief, Breaking Windows, 1000 block of Pennsylvania: Officers Kavanaugh and Johnson responded to a call regarding a suspect, who was breaking into numerous vehicles in the area of Pennsylvania and 25th streets. Headquarters advised the officers of the suspects' description, which came at the same time the officers saw the suspect walking down the street. The officers detained the suspect and placed him into custody. The officers spoke with several witnesses who positively identified the suspect as the one breaking into the cars. The officers also called for a medic to transport the suspect to the hospital, since he had sustained injuries from breaking the glass on the cars.

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Power Plant

Continued from Front Page

political organization because the board of governors is appointed by the governor."

"It's a dead plant walking," said Steven Moss, who also serves on the task force, and leads San Francisco Community Power, a Dogpatch-based nonprofit. "The entire plant should close within thirty days of the Transbay Cable becoming operational. At that point Cal-ISO will no longer be able to ignore the facts on the ground. We don't need it, we don't want it. It's time to move on to a greener era."

Neither Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which has stated that it no longer believes the plant is needed, nor Mirant Corporation, which, in its deal with the City, agreed to advocate for closure of Unit Three by the end of 2010, spoke at the Cal-ISO meeting at which the plant's "must-run" contract was extended.

After the Cal-ISO board rendered its decision the City Attorney's Office continued to press for plant closure

at the San Francisco Bay Region Water Resources Control Board (SFBWRCB), which was considering whether to continue to allow Mirant to rely on once-through cooling. "We made the same comments we made before," said Deputy City Attorney Theresa Mueller. "After December 31, 2010, Mirant should not use once-through cooling at all." However, SFBWRCB agreed to extend the power plant's permit for another year, according to William L. Rukeyser, SFBWRCB spokesman.

The San Francisco Bay Region's posture stands in stark contrast to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQB), which is threatening to close the 49-year old South Bay Power Plant - which also relies on once-through cooling, one of 19 in the state with such a system - even in the face of Cal-ISO's insistence that the plant is needed to maintain reliability. Echoing San Francisco politicians' and community leaders' concern about the Potrero Power Plant, the South Bay "...facility is an anachronism. It shouldn't be here," said Richard Wright, SDRWQB chairman.

Health Care Advocates

Continued from Page 6

"Education. Educating each other about concerns and needs and fears, but not attacking, that's terribly unproductive."

The last attempt at health care reform, an effort lead by the Clinton Administration in 1993, caused a

backlash that lead to the Democratic Party losing control of both the House and the Senate in the 1994 midterm elections. As Congress continues to draft a health care reform bill, activists like Baron, Magnawa and Keyes will soon find out how effective their grassroots efforts have been in determining the future of America's political landscape and the fate of millions of uninsured Americans.



Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **October 6th**, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **October 13th**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

McKinley Square Community Group is a communication and discussion group for community awareness regarding events and activities, clean up days, improvement and beautification, and other concerns such as crime in the neighborhood. Please email info@McKinleySquare.com for further information. Next meeting: **Wednesday, October 14th** at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953 De Haro Street starting at 6:30p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: **October 27th**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **October 13th**, 10 a.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next meeting: **October 6th**, 7pm.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details.

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NEIGHBORHOOD	ZIP CODE	FREE DAYS
Richmond, Seacliff, Western Addition, Pacific Heights, Laurel Heights, Presidio	94121, 94118, 94115, 94129	October 2, 3, 4
Excelsior, Ingleside, Bayview, Hunter's Point, Visitacion Valley	94112, 94134, 94124	October 9, 10, 11
Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill, North Beach, Cow Hollow, Marina	94109, 94133, 94123	October 16, 17, 18
Mission, Bernal Heights	94110	October 30, 31, November 1
Chinatown, Tenderloin, Downtown, SOMA, Potrero, Treasure Island, Mission Bay	94103, 94107, 94130, 94111, 94105, 94108, 94104, 94102, 94158	November 6, 7, 8

Check the complete schedule on www.calacademy.org or call 415.379.8000 to confirm your Neighborhood Free Days.

Each visiting adult must prove residency by showing a driver's license or a utility bill. On each scheduled date, only residents from the specified zip codes will be admitted free of charge.

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